

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, no claims were amended, added, or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 remain at issue. In the non-final Office Action dated December 21, 2006, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of co-pending Application No. 09/944,192.
- B.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. 7,059,516.
- C.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 of U.S. 6,990,684.
- D.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of co-pending Application No. 09/943,683.
- E.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. 7,100,044.
- F.) Rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §101.
- G.) Claims 1-22 would otherwise be allowable.

Applicants address the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of co-pending Application No. 09/944,192 (the '192 application):

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- B.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. 7,059,516 (the '516 patent):

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- C.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 of U.S. 6,990,684.

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- D.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of co-pending Application No. 09/943,683.

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection. Applicants note that Application No. 09/943,683 has issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,185,193.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- E.) Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. 7,100,044.

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- F.) Rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim 24 has been amended as per the Examiner's request to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

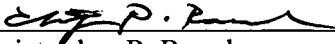
- G.) Claims 1-22 would otherwise be allowable.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 1-22.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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